

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 CU-02 OES-03 L-03 AGR-05 EB-07 /066 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS/LVA

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

D: RWDUEMLING

S/S: - REWOODS

C: JHKELLY

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R 111821Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BULGARIAN
AMBASSADOR

1. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HOSTED A LUNCH FOR BULGARIAN
AMBASSADOR POPOV OCTOBER 9. SONNENFELDT, ARMITAGE AND
ANDREWS ALSO PARTICIPATED. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL.

2. FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE POINTS EMERGED:

(A) IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO
PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV'S WILLINGNESS TO SOLVE DIVIDED FAMILIES
PROBLEM, POPOV SAID THAT ACCORDING TO BULGARIAN RECORDS
ONLY 23 OF 72 PERSONS ON OUR LIST HAD APPLIED FOR EXIT
PERMITS. THREE CASES WERE SOLVED JUST BEFORE THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY'S VISIT AND TWO-THREE SINCE THEN. OTHERS WERE
BEING REVIEWED. HE SUPPOSED FAMILIES IN THE US HAD GIVEN
US NAMES OF THEIR BULGARIAN RELATIVES WHO, THEY ASSUMED,
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WANTED TO GO TO THE US BUT WHO IN FACT HAD NOT APPLIED TO

BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES, AND THIS ACCOUNTED FOR DISPARITY IN THE FIGURES.

(B) POPOV SAID GOB HAD FORMED INTER-MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW US DRAFT OF CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT.

(C) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REMINDED POPOV THAT HE HAD MENTIONED TO MADAME ZHIVKOVA THE INTEREST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON IN ESTABLISHING AN EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH A BULGARIAN INSTITUTION. POPOV INDICATED THIS WAS UNDER REVIEW.

(D) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REFERRED TO UNDER SECRETARY CAMPBELL'S VISIT TO BULGARIA AND TO OUR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE BULGARIAN EXPERTS TO DISCUSS AND NEGOTIATE THE TEXT OF A JOINT STATEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION. (AFTER LUNCH, POPOV TOLD ARMITAGE HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE MEANT BY A JOINT STATEMENT NOR HOW WE PLANNED TO ARRIVE AT SUCH A RESULT. ARMITAGE EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD IN MIND A VISIT TO THE US BY SEVERAL BULGARIAN EXPERTS WHO COULD EXPLAIN WHAT BULGARIA'S INTERESTS WERE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH THE US, E.G. RESEARCH PROJECTS, EXCHANGE OF CROP INFORMATION, ETC., AND WHO COULD DRAW UP, TOGETHER WITH OUR EXPERTS, A JOINT STATEMENT OR PROTOCOL (AS WITH ROMANIA) OR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USDA AND THEIR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THIS DOCUMENT, AFTER REVIEW, COULD BE SIGNED ON THE OCCASION OF A SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY ONE OF THE RESPECTIVE MINISTERS. - POPOV WAS GIVEN COPIES OF THE US-ROMANIAN AND US-POLISH TEXTS ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION.)

(E) POPOV WAS ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF BALKAN COOPERATION. HE STATED THAT BULGARIA REPLIED POSITIVELY TO PREMIER KARAMANLIS' INVITATION ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT TURKEY ALSO ACCEPTED TO PARTICIPATE. HE SAID THE MEETING WOULD BE DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC SUBJECTS.

(F) ASKED ABOUT FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BELGRADE, POPOV SAID BULGARIA HAD NO AMBITIONS OR CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST IN YUGOSLAV MACEDONIA BUT DID NOT ADMIT THAT YUGOSLAVIA SHOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT SO CALLED MACEDONIANS WHO IN BULGARIA WERE CONSIDERED BULGARIANS. HE DID NOT VENTURE ANY OPINION ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE VISIT. HE SAID BULGARIA HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH GREECE OVER THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, DEPENDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE243350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NGANDREWS/LVA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750354-1179
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751060/aaaacbkv.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, BU, (INGERSOLL, ROBERT), (POPOV)
To: SOFIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006